

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02563 100929Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 SIL-01 /085 W
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R 090809Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP PEPR NL UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT THE NETHERLANDS

1. FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME SOVIET VISITED THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 17-25. VITALY RUBEN HEADED A DELEGATION THAT INCLUDED
ALEKSEY SMIRNOV, VIKTOR PAPUTIN, AKBAR ATAKHOYAEV, AND
DIMITRI IVASTAHUK. THEY WERE RETURNING A VISIT BY DUTCH
PARLIAMENTARIANS TO MOSCOW TWO YEARS AGO. THE SOVIET OFFICIALS
MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW, AND THE COMBINED
FIRST AND SECOND CHAMBER COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
THEY HAD AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF VISITS TO DUTCH INDUSTRIES
(INCLUDING PHILIPS), ECONOMIC COUNCILS, AND TRADE
ASSOCIATIONS.

2. THE VISIT WAS A FLOP. MEETING WITH THE SOVIET MPS ON
THE THIRD DAY, DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS WASTED NO TIME ON
AMENITIES, BUT INSTEAD QUESTIONED THE DELEGATION CLOSELY ON
DISSIDENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS RESTRICTIONS AND THE POSITION OF
JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. FROM THERE, THE VISIT WENT
DOWNHILL. AT A SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION, SOVIET
AMBASSADOR ROMANOV REFUSED TO ACCEPT PERSONALLY A
LETTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS FROM LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS,
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POINTING TO THE MAIL BOX INSTEAD. IN ANOTHER PROTEST,
HEWS HELD A DEMONSTRATIVE PASSOVER MEAL IN FRON OF THE THE
SOVIET EMBASSY. THE DELEGATION CANCELLED A PRESS
CONFERENCE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

3. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS RECEIVED PLENTY OF DUTCH
HOSPITALITY. HOWEVER, NEITHER DUTCH PUBLIC NOR OFFICIALDOM

SEEMED PREPARED TO LISTEN TO STANDARD SOVIET PLATITUDES,
WHICH INCLUDED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ERW. THE SERIES OF CONFRONT-
ATIONS WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CO-
ORDINATED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS IN COOPERATION WITH DUTCH
PARLIAMENTARIANS. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WAS HARDLY MORE
FORTHCOMING. ACCORDING TO MFA SPOKESMAN ON APRIL 20, VAN DER
KLAUW REAFFIRMED DUTCH REFUSAL OF THE DELEGATIONS'S
REQUEST TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ROTTERDAM.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

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